

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OC-05 CCO-00 USPS-01 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-05 /075 W

----- 101042

R 060357Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2479

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 1435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE SERVICE ENTERS INTO PERIOD OF
INDUSTRIAL DISRUPTION

1. FEDERAL AND STATE UNITS OF THE AMALGAMATED POSTAL WORKERS' UNION
(APWU) ARE UNDERTAKING SERIES OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS, INCLUDING ROLLING

WORK STOPPAGES, WHICH WILL GRAVELY AFFECT DISTRIBUTION OF DEMESTIC
AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL.

2. UNIONS ARE REACTING TO RECENT DECISION OF ARBITRATION COMMISSION
(DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE SEPARATELY REPORTED) WHICH GRANTS FURTHER
INCREASES TO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING POST OFFICE WORKERS.
POSTAL WORKERS FEEL DECISION DISCRIMINATORY PARTICULARLY AGAINST
LOWER GRADES WHICH MAKE UP BULK OF POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES.

3. SINCE ALL APO MAIL FOR EMBASSY AND CONSTITUENT POSTS IS HANDLED
BY POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT IN-BOUND AND
OUT-BOUND MAIL AND PARCELS WILL BE SUBJECT TO GREAT AND INCREASING
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DELAYS.

4. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF POSTAL UNION IS, BY INDUSTRIAL ACTION, TO INFLUENCE DECISION OF FULL BENCH HEARING OF ARBITRATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER APPEAL OF POSTAL UNIONS AT MEETING, AS YET UNSCHEDULED, BUT HOPEFULLY DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 9. MEANWHILE RELIANCE OF MAIL-PLEBISCITE OF RANK AND FILE, EACH STATE UNION OF APWU IS CONDUCTING SERIES OF 8-HOURS STRIKES ON BLITZ PATTERN, WHICH WILL CREATE CHAOS DURING HEAVY CHRISTMAS MAIL SEASON.

5. ON DECEMBER 6, PAT KIRLEY, VICTORIA STATE PRESIDENT OF APWU, TOLD LABATT THAT EFFECT ALREADY INDICATES MAIL NORMALLY TO BE DELIVERED BY DECEMBER 24 WILL NOT BE DELIVERED BEFORE JANUARY 2. AS INDUSTRIAL ACTION CONTINUES, CHRISTMAS MAIL WILL BE DELAYED WELL INTO MONTH OF JANUARY.
BRAND

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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